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## **Railroad conductor who died in Colorado Springs accident remembered as adventurous woman**

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By Lisa Walton ([/author/lisa-walton](#)) Published: October 12, 2014 • 0

A 42-year-old railroad conductor who died in an industrial accident in Colorado Springs was an "energetic, genuine and adventurous" woman with a contagious smile and a love for life, her family said in a statement.

Dawn Trettenero died Wednesday in a railroad switching accident at an industrial complex on the 3200 block of Astrozon Boulevard, off Hancock Expressway, according to a release from the United Transportation Union.

Trettenero had followed the footsteps of her grandfather, Jacob J. Sewald, into the railroad business and worked for Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway. Sewald also worked for Burlington Northern, starting as a teenager and, after a stint with the Navy in World War II, served as an engineer for the company until his retirement.

Information on how long Trettenero had worked for the company was not provided, but she had been a member of Transportation Division Local 202 in Denver since December 2011.

According to a family statement released to The Gazette late Friday, Trettenero's passions included the Denver Broncos and "anything athletic." She enjoyed hiking and cycling in the mountains and off-roading in her Jeep, the statement said.

"There was nothing Dawn would not try at least once. Her beautiful adventurous nature allowed her to explore the world with her own unique zeal. She let her full love of life lead the way in her work, play and family life," the statement said.

"Dawn never allowed anything to stand in her way of reaching out to others and making a genuine connection. One of her many talents, besides art, was making friends with whomever crossed her path and she always made those in her presence feel cared for and significant," the statement read.

The Federal Railroad Association, as well as the National Transportation Safety Board and state transportation officials, are investigating the accident.

The union release said Trettenero is the second Transportation Division member to die on the job this year.

The release said a memorial service will be held in the Denver area; the family requested that details of the service not be released.

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